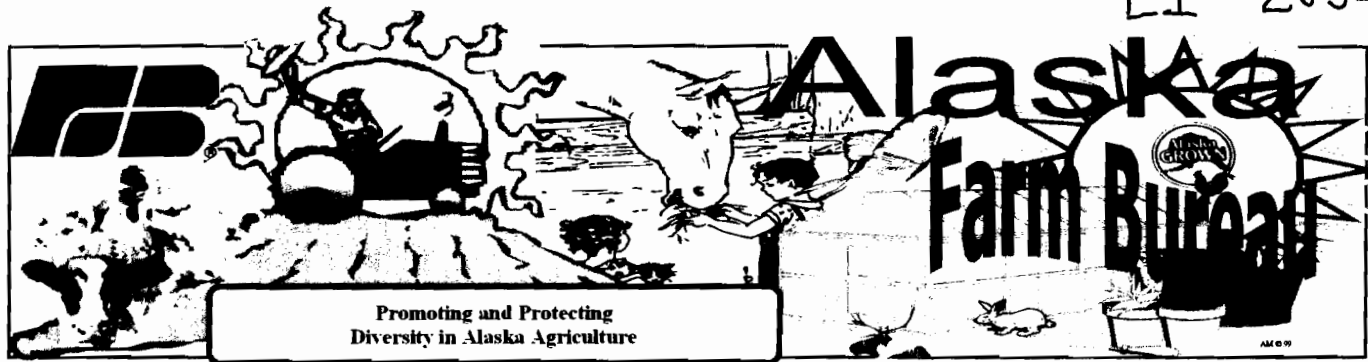


EI - 2854



Fairbanks Chapter, Alaska Farm Bureau  
PO Box 16067  
Two Rivers, AK 99716  
February 5, 2007

Case Control Unit  
STB Finance Docket No. 34658  
1925 K Street, NW, Suite 500  
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Attention: David Navecky  
Environmental Filing

REF: STB Finance Docket No. 34658

Dear Mr. Navecky:

The Fairbanks Farm Bureau Chapter represents farmers in a wide area surrounding Fairbanks, Alaska. It is one of several chapters that comprise the statewide Alaska Farm Bureau, Inc.

As an advocate for agriculture, the Fairbanks Farm Bureau Chapter has reviewed the plans of the Alaska Railroad to expand rail service to the Delta Junction area of Alaska. In the long run, railroad expansion has the potential to provide significant benefits to agriculture.

Nevertheless, routing of the railroad is critical to achieve benefits for agriculture. Misalignment could be a detriment to agriculture. We are particularly concerned about routing through or near the Eielson farm area. Two alignments are currently being proposed. One crosses through the farming area while the other runs along the Highway.

The Fairbanks Farm Bureau Chapter does not support routing through the Eielson farm area. This routing would split farms and diminish the amount of farmable land near Fairbanks, which is already in short supply.

The Fairbanks Farm Bureau Chapter, however, does support the Richardson Highway routing, currently labeled as the Eielson East and Salcha East segments. This routing stays out of the farming area, avoids other private land owners and meets the objective of efficiently expanding the railroad.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We look forward to reviewing the draft EIS.

Sincerely,

Ila Shoen  
Secretary

cc: Jane Hamilton, State Farm Bureau